

REMARKS

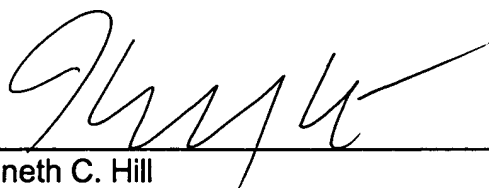
This Amendment is submitted in response to the Examiner's Action dated 17 November 2004. Applicant has provided a substitute specification, as a marked up version and as a clean version, that corrects the bold faced section headings, as required by the examiner, and corrects other formal errors as described above. No new matter is introduced by this amendment to the specification.

Claims 3 – 12 were rejected under §102(e) over US Patent 6,697,824 to Bowman-Amuah. This patent was filed approximately two months before the priority date of the present application, which is October 27, 1999. The filing receipt does not accurately reflect the claimed priority, as set forth in the first paragraph of the application as originally filed, and a separate request for correction of filing receipt is enclosed herewith.

Thus, the present application has a priority date of 10/27/1999 for those elements claimed in claims 3 – 12. Enclosed is a declaration by the inventor, Frederick Herz, stating that the present application was in the process of being written from a date prior to August 31, 1999, the priority date of the cited reference. This removes the cited patent as a reference against the claims, overcoming the §102(e) rejection thereof.

Applicant believes that the claims are now in condition for allowance, and requests reconsideration and allowance thereof.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Hill', written over a horizontal line.

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